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Sportsfest Beating the winter blues Page 3

OMB Hearing
Nyon groundwork laid Page 8

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013 Toppling turbines

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A new chapter Port author's graphic novel series

NEWS **INPORT**

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■ FACILITY: Vale Health and Wellness Centre opens ream comes true

VICTORIA GRAV InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -When Port Colborne's former director of community services Tom Lannan suggested the city build an active living facility 17 years ago, many city councillors said it would never happen.

On Saturday, Lannan's dream came true when Vale Health and Wellness Centre officially opened its doors with a community celebration.

"I don't think you can put into words to describe today." he said. "This really embodies the lifestyle of the community and it's something that's going to be here for generations.

Lannan was master of ceremonies on a stage built in the middle of one of the NHLsized ice rinks in the \$32-million facility. It was there, in front of more than 500 people in the stands, that he thanked Port Colborne council and city staff for staying on the right course and getting the Vale centre built.

Dykstra spoke on behalf of Gary Goodyear, minister of state for the Federal Economic Agency for Southern Ontario. He said the federal government was proud to have kicked in \$6.9 million for the facility and said it is a shining example of the successes that come from partnerships.

see SUBJECT | page 2



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Representatives from the federal, provincial and local members of government along with local hockey players helped cut the ribbon officially opening the Vale Health and Wellness Centre in Port Colborne on Saturday.

www.HometownRealEstateGuy.com Michael Smith



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■ VALE CENTRE

'This is what Port's all about'

He also said the Vale

centre is an example of how important a healthy lifestyle is to a community. "(While health care is an issue) Port Colborne has told the rest of the country that it's time to think about prevention.

government matched the federal government's invest-Tom Lannan

ment and, even though he lives in the Falls, be intends to use the facility and watch many junior B hockey games in Port Colborne. "Money doesn't make a complex like this a success - it's people," he said.

Niagara Falls MPP Kim

Craitor said the provincial

There's nothing better than seeing a child ice skate for the first time. or swim in a pool for the first time. It's just amaz-

Mayor Vance Badawey thanked community members for their continued support and told them the success and creation of the Vale centre wouldn't

them "This is what Port's all about," he said. "Getting out, being active, having fun and hanging out with family

and friends Junior B and minor hockey players skated onto the ice and all members of government and representatives from the YMCA cut a ceremonial ribbon to start a

Volunteers cut a Vale centre-shaped cake and handed pieces out in the community room before visitors toured the facility that has two NHL-sized ice rinks, two swimming pools, a jogging track, six outdoor

than seeing a child ice swim in a pool for the first time," said Lannan, "It's just amazing." Twitter: @VixeyG

have been possible without bocce courts, six soccer fields, three baseball fields, a gym, fitness room, a playground and recreation trail.

More than 1,000 people toured the facility and took part in the mayor's bockey tournament, family skates, swims and family bounce, and visited with former NHL players Gary Leeman, Bob Nevin and Darryl Shannon "There's nothing better

skate for the first time, or VICTORIA CRAV Staff Disc. Former director of community services Tom Lannan signed the banner at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre community victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca celebration Saturday. He has advocated for a centre like the

VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo. Veronica Landry's Sno-pitch team the Alchoballics may not have won the tournament, but she has a great time trying.

■ SPORTSFEST: Plenty to do in Port Colborne

Great way to beat the winter blues

VICTORIA GRAY InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - Sub zero temperatures and a little snow didn't keep residents in hibernation this weekend

Sportsfest kept Port Colborne active with indoor and outdoor activities all over the city giving people plenty to do and see. Mayor Vance Badawey

was very happy with the turnout at this year's 15th annual Sportsfest with events ranging from ice skating to art shows and snow golf to soup tasting.

"There was a lot of participation- obviously with the opening of new Vale Centre it brought a lot more folks out to take part and spectate. A lot came out to see the new facility," he said. "That's what its all about- getting everybody out to all the events and Porticipating."

Vale for 17 years.

The Mayor's Cup Invitational Hockey Tournament was held at the Vale Centre and the new rinks drew lots of people to see the municipalities duke

In division A. Barrie took home first place in double overtime; in division B, the Niagara Region's Water

Waste Water team won first place: in C division. Niagara Falls came in first; and in D division, Grimsby Veronica Landry played

Sno-Pitch and said she never misses a year because it's a lot of fun. "It's nice to get out with friends and do something

fun together," she said. see SPORTSFEST | 3

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portraits

■ SPORTSFEST

Winter a time to get out and have fun

FROM PAGE 2

Although Badawey couldn't participate in any activities this year due to upcoming knee surgery he had a great time watching the tournaments.

"It's a great opportunity to get folks out of the house and have a lot fun being active, being healthy and with each other. That's what Sportsfest is all about, People coming out and being with one another." Badawey said. Owner of City Tavern Martin Moskalyk ran the volleyball tournaments and the Frosthike Winter Mountain

Bike Race and said it's impor-

can also be a time to get out and have fun.

"It's February and it's a dead time of year. There is nothing going on in the outdoor activities so it's good to get people up and out and off their (butts)," he said.

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @VixevG

SPORTSFEST RESULTS

Frosthike Winter Mountain Rike Race winners

- Female under 25: Linda Shin ■ Female under 37: Tonya
- Female 38 and over: Bonnie
- Symes
- Male riders under 25: Andrew De Cal
- Male 30 to 39: JC Roberge ■ Male 40 to 49: Craig Fleetwood
- Male 50+: David Less

tant to remember that winter Sno-Pitch Co-ed Tournament

- results ■ Recreation: The rebels St
- Catharines Fun: The Mooseheads Port
- Colborne
- Competitive: Young Guns Port Colborne
- Volleyball tournament results
- Ladies competitive: Just the Tip
- Ladies intermediate: Bite Me
- Ladies recreation: Last Minute Mens competitive:
- Art of Flight ■ Mens intermediate
- Average Joe's Sunday coed competitive -
- Deep Bump Sets Series B: That's what
- she said ■ Intermediate: Sideout
- Division B: Sandbaggers





VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo Reagan Cleary usually goes tot he YMCA in Welland, but she's excited to switch to Port Colborne for swimming lessons and exercising.

Mehrshad Riazafi returned hard for his Sportsfest Volleyball tournament team Forskin, but they didn't take home a trophy.

INPORTANEWS

Published by InPort News Sun Media Corp. 228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5 Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660 inport.news@sunmedia.ca John Tobon, publisher, print & digital



ourview

Rocky start for Wynne

ntario Premier Kathleen Wynne, in her first week on the job, threw cold water on the proposed south Niagara hospital and set back hospital reform in Niagara two

If the province doesn't proceed with the proposed hospital, it's going to be a disappointment to Niagara's southern communities, already hurting over the way the new St. Catharines hospital is taking services away from them

Wynne said her Liberal government has "no immediate plan to act on a recommendation to build a new hospital that would serve Welland Port Colborne, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. It's something to consider down the road, she said during a conference call Thursday with Niagara and Hamilton

Read between the lines. That message sounds a lot like politician-code for "We don't have the money.

Wynne inherited a government that's running a \$12-billion deficit. She reminded reporters there are more pressing health-care issues to address and the province has just finished spending \$1 billion on a brand-spanking new hospital in St. Catharines.

"The focus on the NHS is on continuing to create a wellgoverned and well-run hospital system," she said Because Premier Wynne is new on the job, we'll cut her

However, she should be reminded the recommendation to build a south Niagara hospital came from Kevin Smith, a supervisor appointed by her own Liberal government. It was her own government's fix-it man who raised the

expectation of a Niagara south hospital as a prescription to ease the pain of seeing so many resources spent on the people in the region's north end. The reason Health Minister Deb Matthews appointed Smith

in 2011 was to restore public confidence in Niagara Health System Wynne's own government brought in a supervisor because

the public felt the NHS wasn't a well-run or well-governed hospital system. Not proceeding with the Niagara south hospital will erode the gains Smith made in restoring public confidence.

So, to recap--the government appointed a supervisor to restore public confidence in the NHS. His recommendation: build a new hospital to serve Niagara's southern communities But the new premier has no immediate plan to act on that recommendation. Premier Wynne is off to a rocky start in South Niagara.

■ COLUMN

The great maple syrup heist

irst, somebody stole the maple

I don't mean somebody pocketed the dispenser bottle from a tabletop at

Le Breakfast Club. I mean robbers in Saint- Louisde-Blandford, Que., drove container trucks up to the province's cartel warehouse and siphoned off3.75 million litres of maple syrup, enough

to fill one and a half Olympic-sized swimming pools. That's 10 million liquid pounds in 15,000 barrels which represents 80% of the world's supply of

That's \$20 million worth of liquid that's darker than honey and faster

The Ouebec provincial police had been looking for a group of men with Class 3 truck driver's licences and very, very, very sticky fingers. Quebec is obviously transforming its economy from an organized crime base to one that's high in nutrition.

I have no idea what these guys plan to do with 15,000 barrels of maple syrup, but if it's for personal use, they're going to need a waffle the size of West Virginia. Hey, 100,000 gallons is more maple syrup than the Rob and Doug Ford could put away on



WILLIAM THOMAS

maple syrup the way North Korea is accumulating nuclear weapons. And don't think that wouldn't be a boon to world peace - using tanker drones to drop 100,000 gallons of maple syrup on Kim Jong-un's nuclear power plant. You think Dim Kim has bad hair now; wait until he has to

shampoo with Goo Gone Thieves also stole 100 rabbits from a farm near Owen Sound, Ont.

Police didn't even bother to investigate this one. When you have the luck of 400 rabbit's feet going for you, nobody's going to track you down. Then here in

Niagara, three men including a police officer were charged with cheese "The large-scale smuggling scheme"

involved \$200,000 worth of lowcost American cheese destined for Canadian pizzerias.

If nothing else, this confirms that the \$649 billion spent so far by U.S. Homeland Security was money well

They haven't caught a terrorist recently but wheels of domestic cheddar are going to think twice before they attempt to illegally enter Canada. Homeland Security director Janet Napolitano, who insanely believes that

the 9/11 terrorists got into the United States through Canada, called it "a gouda day for law enforcement." Large quantities of maple syrup, meat and cheese being stolen in Canada at approximately the same

This could only mean one thing al-Qaida is planning a massive high calorie food attack on Canada. Code name: "The Jihadist Grand Slam

Breakfast

Seriously, you throw link sausages and a pile of pancakes into all this stolen property and you could drive every Bob Evans fast food restaurant in America out of business thereby precipitating another global economic meltdown. (And yes, the cheese is for the meltdown.)

Sorry, but I don't get this sudden outbreak of robberies in Canada involving food products.



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The hot commodity

FROM PAGE 4

It's as if criminals in this country have lost their sense of integrity.

For whatever reason - the flat economy, the high price of consumer goods, soaring taxes - we are no longer producing a generation of honorable

We don't have bank robbers in Canada anymore: we have crooks with low esteem who would rather rob food banks. Once a nation of highway robbers, we now have a bunch of bandits bent on stealing

highways. Is this what a developed country with a reasonable good living standard aspires to be? Some sort of weird larcenous nation of food criminals where

armed lunatics run around shooting holes in Froot Loops and calling themselves cereal killers?

I think not

What the hell is happening to We used to have well-trained

bank robbers with classic names like "The Boyd Gang" and "The Stopwatch

Gang." Now what do we have? "The Maple Syrup Six"? "The Saint-Louis Sappers"!

"The Bunny Snatchers of Grey County*? *The Cross-Border Cheese Doodlers"? This is ridiculous. If we cannot

sustain or indeed, enhance our great heritage of grand larceny, how can we possibly compete in a fast-changing

world of high-technology misappropriation?

Are the Chinese - now the masters of identity theft and hard-drive hacking - not now laughing hysterically at a country

where citizens have their feet stuck firmly in a pool of maple Are the Russians - now capable of decoding highly

sensitive passwords from U.S. Pentagon computers - not looking upon Canadians as a bunch of Wayne's Worlders who build secret smuggling compartments into cars and then filled them with cheese? Theft is the hot commodity of the future and we need to get a

lot better at it. www.williamthomas.ca



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WIND POWER

Conference aimed at toppling turbines

DAVE JOHNSON InPort News Staff WAINFLEET - Speaking with a

united voice.

That's the goal of a conference on wind turbines next week at Jericho House in Wainfleet, said Mayor April Jeffs and Ald. Betty Konc. "We're bringing in elected officials and are going to brain-

storm ... we'll go away with ideas on how to speak with a united voice against wind turbines," said Konc.

municipalities last year when it passed a moratorium on industrial wind turbines being built in the township.

The moratorium doesn't hold any weight as the province's Green Energy Act takes



kilometre setback for the wind turbines from any nearby residences.

Wainfleet joined about 90 other see CONFERENCE | page 7



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Issues will be discussed

FROM PAGE 6

That bylaw does not hold up under the Green Energy Act and is currently being challenged in court by Wainfleet Wind Energy. Wainfleet Wind Energy is one of two companies looking to set up wind turbine farms in Wainfleet. The other company is Niagara Region Wind Corp.

Konc said there will be three guest speakers at the conference. which is being held on Friday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jericho House, on Rathfon Rd. in Wainfleet.

"We have Carmen Krogh, who will talk about health-related issues; John Kennedy, a lawyer and John Laforet, who will talk about directions elected officials can take and what can be done politically," she said.

After the speakers are finished. participants will break out into brainstorming sessions for an hour and come back with ideas on how to fight wind turbine projects.

"Hopefully the elected officials will take the ideas back to their own councils," said Kone

She said coming up with ideas that can be shared across the province will give municipalities a united voice, especially if they all talk the same and use the same language when it comes to

who will speak about legal issues, the fight against wind turbines. Jeffs said the idea for the conference came from Konc.

'We know we're all facing the same challenge, but have never been able to connect with each other."

The mayor said while the conference got off to a slow start, more municipalities have said they are attending. Only elected officials

can attend the one-day event. "I think there's a push from residents in those municipalities saving they want elected officials to come to this conference," Jeffs said.

There's room for 120 people at the conference and the two Wainfleet representatives said they'd like to see at least 100 people come down.

Public Notice

Public Meeting for the Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools Accommodation Review will be held at:

RIDGEWAY-CRYSTAL BEACH HIGH SCHOOL 576 Ridge Road, Ridgeway, Ontario

Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

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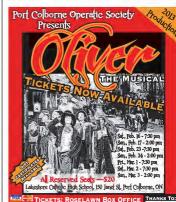
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■ ENERGY PARK: Port Colborne solidifies its position



Planners Tony Boutassis and Kristy Shortall, both of MMM Group, were at Port Colborne's city council meeting Tuesday night to answer questions about the proposed Nyon Oil Inc. energy park project.

Groundwork is laid for Nyon OMB hearing

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - The future of the controversial Nyon Oil Inc. energy park now rests in the hands of the Ontario Municipal Board

Port Colborne council solidified its position on the project, and approved a set of recommendations during a special meeting, that will be brought forward to the OMB in April. The Nyon development,

first proposed in 2005. was shot down by council in 2009 with the denial of official plan and zoning bylaw amendments required to build the park in Port Colborne. Nyon appealed the

decision with the OMB and has since been working with the city to make changes to its application. Professional land use

planner Rick Brady, of Urban & Environmental Management Inc., has been working on the Nyon project on behalf of the city for nearly four years. Brady was the one who initially recommended council turn down the development in 2009. "Essentially the reason

WHAT THE OMB HAS

Boundaries The property for the

proposed energy park, split into what has been designated as Site A and B. is south of Hwy, 58A (also known as Townline Tunnel Rd.) on the east side of the Welland Canal with Forks Rd. separating Site A and B and Concession 3 acting as the southern boundary.

What was approved

That Urban & Environmental Management Inc. present the report recommendation at the upcoming OMB hearing. That Port Colborne

"desirability of the Nyon

project," he added.

council supports a holding provision for the city's official plan on the northerly portion of the Nyon lands where the tank farm is proposed. That council support the revised designation

of environmental protection lands on the property, which have been expanded based on an environmental impact study.

That council supports the approach outlined in UEM's report for zoning of the Nvon lands. That the proposed official plan and zoning bylaw amendments are supported by council at the upcoming OMB

then was insufficient removed a liquid gas cominformation to properly ponent, which was the key judge the project," he told element that raised much a crowd on Tuesday. concern from the get-go, Since 2009, there have and has agreed to providing been "significant changes" detailed technical informathat have impacted the tion, which has since been

hearing.

peer reviewed, Brady said. see OMB | page 9 The company has

Regional amendment is no longer needed

FROM PAGE 8

There have also been significant changes to policies, both at the regional and municipal levels, that have changed project requirements for the lands in question. A regional plan amendment is no longer required.

Also, as Port Colborne's official plan was recently finalized and approved. the Nyon lands were designated as rural employment lands, which allow for a variety of dry industrial uses that are not in need of municipal servicing The only Nyon land use now requiring

an official plan amendment is a 56-tank farm for traditional petrochemical products. Brady believes there is still more information needed to be added before the lands can be zoned for its use. That information is expected to be provided when a full concept plan is submitted,

Brady has recommended that a holding provision be put on the tank farm portion of the property to ensure certain technical studies are updated with the necessary information before the project can move forward.

level of control for the city," he said. The OMB will ultimately decide

whether the holding provision is put in place. If the provision is put in place, it will be up to council to lift it, likely once a detailed site plan has been submitted,

South of the tanks will be a solar energy farm and space to develop other green industries. Wetland and woodlot areas on the property are still designated as environmental protection and are to remain untouched.

Brady provided proposed official plan and zoning bylaw amendments for the project that will be brought forth to the

Nyon is supportive of the changes to the amendments, including the holding provision, said MMM Group senior planner Kristy Shortall The OMB hearing is scheduled for

Monday, April 15, at 11 a.m. in city council chambers

The full report from the meeting is available at www.portcolborne.ca.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca "The holding provision is an extra Twitter: @mfirthTribune

■ ENERGY PARK: No to Nyon Oil Neighbours express fears

MARYANNE FIRTH

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - Several people said 'no' to Nyon Oil Inc... The company's controversial energy park drew about 30 people to Port Colborne council chambers for a special meeting to determine the city's stance

on the project prior to an upcoming Ontario Municipal Board hearing. A handful of residents spoke to the issue, expressing concerns about Nyon and the impact the development will have on the community

Forks Rd. resident Chris Lince shared worries about a 56-tank petrochemical farm proposed for the property and potential leaks and spills that may occur. While she's aware such spills have happened before, "by Nyon being here you're increasing your odds," Lince told

There are people trained both locally and regionally to handle such situa tions, including the hazardous material response team, said Mayor Vance Badawey. Nyon, he added, would also be required to have an emergency plan

A containment cell will run around and under the tanks to prevent any spills from occurring, said senior planner Kristy Shortall of MMM Group, which is representing Nyon, A vapour recovery system will also be included in the tank design and ground water will be con-

tinually monitored. Lince also shared worries about noise levels on the property.

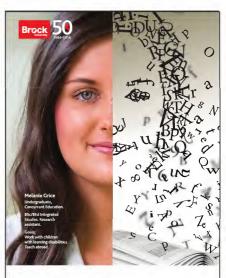
As there's no manufacturing being done on site, there should be little noise aside from the pumps for the tanks, said professional land use planner Rick Brady, who is reviewing the Nyon application on behalf of the city

Primary distribution will take place through a pipeline to ships, with secondary transport through rail about once a day, followed by trucks as a third transport option, Shortall said

"The number of trucks will be quite minimal based on the requirements of the operation," she added. Dain City resident Wendy Bover drew

issue with the proximity of the proposed energy park to the nearby biodiesel

see NEIGHBOURS | page 10



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Fears are that park will continue to grow once approval received

A number of studies were done to look at the compatibility of the tank farm to surrounding uses and no issues were raised, said Brady.

The Environment Ministry has stringent separation requirements that the farm adheres to. Shortall added. "This is more a plea than anything else. I'm asking council to look at what their citizens want, to consider

the safety of their citizens." Bover said. but it's at too big of a trade-off." She fears the park will begin small and continue to grow and grow once it gains approval.

Concerns were also raised by various speakers on the lifespan of the tanks, stability of the land, potential "It will bring big profit into Port for the tank farm to be seen as a ter-Colborne, and that's not a bad thing, rorist target, possible drainage issues,

This is by no means the end of the project," said Ward 4 Coun, Ron Bodner prior to the approval of several recommendations to be sent to



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InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET - As far as wind turbines are concerned Andrew Watts says they

During a public meeting in Wainfleet township council chambers. Watts pleaded with Niagara Region Wind Corp. (NRWC) to stop moving forward with its proposed Wainfleet wind turbine farm until "you know what you are

Watts was one of several residents to offer comments at the meeting to receive input toward NRWC's municipal consultation component required in the Renewable Energy Approval process. A municipal consultation form requests comments

from the township on the use of municipal lands and infrastructure, landscaping, emergency management procedures, and building permit requirements as they relate to the proposed wind farm.

The company is proposing to build up to five three-

megawatt turbines on private lands, but including the use of municipal lands for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the

Wainfleet hired Jones Consulting Group Ltd. to review NRWC's application and documents and offer comments, which will become part of the renewable energy approval process.

Watts said the Jones report questioned a lack of documentation from NRWC that should be in the renewable energy approval package and felt it was "appalling" the company would come forward without that "They are a private, for

profit company that still hasn't got their paperwork together Watts questioned why

NRWC didn't have reports on low-frequency noise generated by industrial wind turbines, noting Health Canada is going to look into that aspect as it studies turbines.

sick. leavhomes ..

> too much dence worldwide. You need to stop until proper investigations are carried

out," said Watts. Watts, like others who spoke, urged council to keep up its fight against wind turbine

companies.

ahead."

"Óntario needs you. These people are going to destroy o u r community if allowed to go

AlLegget, of Stantec Consulting, the company hired by NRWC to put together its renewable energy approval package, said comments would be provided on the Jones

report.
"The Jones report went into a lot of detail on information that will come at a later stage," said

> He said a number of plans - including environmental management - and programs will be put in place before work begins on the

question of Resident Terry Maxner people being questioned whether there is losing and money set aside to decoming their mission turbines at the end of their lifespans. He said there's

there are 14,000 turbines ahan. doned in California with no one taking them down

and he doesn't want to see that happen here. Maxner also questioned what would be done if it was found that water wells were damaged by the project. NRWC spokeswoman

Randi Rahamim said there wil be a performance bond in place for the decommissioning of sites. Legget said there will be

discussions with landowners as to whether they want concrete bases of turbines removed once turbines are

He also said wells within 500 metres of each site will be monitored for quality and quantity pre- and postconstruction.

Resident Louis Shedden said his land sits over the Wainfleet aquifer and he does not want to see it damaged by turbine construction. Shedden said the water from the aguifer is some of the best quality around and cannot be replaced.

see WIND POWER | page 13





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■ COURT: Two-kilometre setback lawsuit proceeding next month

Wainfleet gets legal aid in turbine battle Report can be modified

FROM PAGE 12

Other residents had questions about the projects, while some railed against wind turbines in general and urged council to keep up its

Ray Duhamel, of Jones Consulting Group Ltd., said his report could be modified any way council wanted before being sent in.

"It's an evolving document," he added. Township planner Grant Munday said a report will be prepared on comments made by residents and those comments can be included in the municipal consultation component.

WAINFLEET - A legal defence fund will be set up to help Wainfleet deal with fees from a lawsuit that could run into the hundreds of thousands

of dollars

It will operate as Wainfleet Legal Fund and be run by Value Media Corp., St. Catharines resident Andy Petrowski told town-

ship council on Tuesday. "I'm on your side. I'm in support of the township moratorium (on wind turbines)," said Petrowski, who came as a pri-

vate citizen but is also a regional councillor for St. Catharines. Wainfleet is before the courts facing a lawsuit by Wainfleet Wind Energy over a two-kilometre setback bylaw it passed in relation to wind turbines last

year, Council heard the bylaw. which calls for wind turbines to he at least two kilometres away from residences, would not stand as the province's Green Energy Act overrides any local decision making, but passed it

In late December, Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs gave a deposition in relation to the lawsuit, which will proceed on March 11

in St. Catharines. "You're facing significant legal fees and could see a much higher expenses if the plaintiff files for costs in their favour if they win. You could be running into hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Petrowski of what will become a precedent-setting

He told council he wants to mount a serious effort to raise funds for the township and said his organization, Value Media Corp., would visit the 90 or so



Ontario sharing similar concerns over wind turbines, Petrowski is confident the group's efforts will vield results.

to alert people to the existence of the fund and attract attention to it. We'll leave no stone unturned'

Petrowski made three pledges to the township, one Ontario of which was that fundraising efforts would come at no cost to the township and would be

independent. "We'll run the fundraising with a high degree of professionalism. We are seasoned marketing and financial consultants who do this day in and day out." He said his group is prepared

legal fight for as long as it carries Township CAO Scott Luev spoke with Petrowski before the

"We'll utilize social media council meeting about the fund. He told council there is nothing illegal, untoward or unsavoury

about it. "It's probably a good idea ... to make up some of the funds will

relieve the taxpaver," said Luev. He said it was an idea staff and council had looked at before, but the township lacked the expertise to do the kind of work Petrowski and the legal fund will be doing.

While the township doesn't have charitable status, it can still give tax receipts for donations to the fund.

to stand beside Wainfleet in its Council passed a motion calling for the fund to be started and operated as Wainfleet Legal Fund, through Value Media





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BAD KARMA

PORT COLBORNE - A 38-year-old Port Colborne man has been arrested following an overnight break-in at a local

restaurant Niagara Regional Police were called to The Smokin' Buddha on King St. Sunday to investigate an overnight break and enter

Evidence at the scene led police to the Seaway Motel on Hwy, 3, where a suspect. who had taken up temporary residency at the motel, was

arrested without incident. Kevin Kohl, 38, is charged with break and enter, attempt indictable offence and breach of probation

PLEA FOR AIRPORT

PORT COLBORNE - There was no turbulence as pilot Bill Chernish visited Port Colborne council to share concerns over the future of Niagara Central

Chernish, a Welland resident and international airline captain, had planned to make a presentation to the

municipal councils of the four communities that contribute to the airport's budget, but told lakeside city councillors they were the only group willing to hear him out.

Chernish expressed fears the airport will fail if it continues to be run as is by the airport commission. He asked that municipalities, which he says

oversee the commission under the Municipal Act, review the situation. His presentation was accepted for information with little discussion.

Ward 4 Coun. Barb Butters, also chair of the airport commission, extended an invitation to Chernish to make his presentation to the commission as well.

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Port tempting DSBN with land

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -Council has offered land by the new Vale Health and Wellness Centre to see a new public high school built in Port Colborne.

The option was put on the table during a recent council meeting during an update of District School Board of Niagara's accommodation review, which is looking at the future of Port Colborne. Fort Erie and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach high schools. The accommodation review

committee is weighing three options: closing all three schools and amalgamating into one new facility, closing two schools and amalgamating into the remaining location, and consolidating Fort Erie and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach, leaving Port Colborne

untouched for the time being. It was when Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny, who sits on the review committee, asked council to support her preference for the third option that the land offer came into play. If Port Colborne High School

is left for the time being, it has been indicated it will be Colborne partner with DSBN,

with Welland during a future accommodation review

expected to take place in two years, said Mayor

Vance Badawey "Though it's good for the city of Port Colborne today, my concern is the city of Port Colborne tomorrow," he said. Badawey suggested Port



create a "more robust campus secondary school.

A new school would provide additional academic and sports opportunities, which is what the board is partially looking to do through its accommodation

School, to

did years Having a new school by the Vale centre will "maintain and

even enhance enrolment." Badawey said. Lakeshore is "proof," he added, that campus-style high schools are successful.

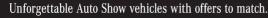
If the wrong decision is made by DSBN, "enrolment may migrate" to another school board, Badawey said. Lower enrolment could also mean less funding from the

Ministry of Education, he added. Badawey said of the land offer is something DSBN officials must consider. "Let's at least give them

the opportunity to give it full consideration." Kenny did note that Fort Erie has offered land for a new high school to be built by its town hall and Fort Erie Leisureplex.

The motion to offer the land was approved and Kenny will bring forward the land option to the ARC at a future meeting

The ARC still has two meetings scheduled prior to a final report being created and recommendation submitted to the school board. The board will make the ultimate decision on the fate of the three schools.



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■ EDUCATION: Deal must be pitched to accommodations review committee to be considered Port high school land option 'not legitimate'

VICTORIA GRAY InPort News Staff - The futures of Port

PORT COLBORNE uncertain

Colborne, Fort Erie and Board of Niagara accom-Ridgeway-Crystal Beach high schools are still The District School

modation review committee has yet to figure out how to deal with declining enrolment in all three

And the municipalities want to help. Both Fort Erie and Port Colborne councils have

offered up land for new Fort Brie and Port

Colborne trustee Dave Schaubel thinks every municipality should have a high school, but he can't influence the ARC process.

"What matters most is what's best for students to achieve success," he said. "My thinking is to have the best state-of-theart high school they can have.

see AREC | page 17



Submitted photo A drawing of a council-backed proposal to build a new high school in Fort Erie shows how it could be built on Garrison Rd.,





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Review committee weighing three options

FROM PAGE 16

The review committee is weighing three options: closing all three schools and amalgamating into one new facility, closing two schools and amalgamating into the remaining location, and consolidating Fort Erie and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach, leav-

ing Port Colborne untouched for the time being Port Colhorne city council this week suggested giving DSBN land by Vale Health

and Wellness Centre. Schaubel said the offer isn't on the table until a member of council makes a presentation to the committee. "As far as DSBN is con-

cerned that's just media it's not legitimate. We've had nothing presented to us at this point," he said.

"(If they make a presentation) it would put them on the same level as Fort Erie or anybody else in the public who gives their opinion." Port Colborne Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny, who is on the bring forward the land option at a future ARC meeting.

At an ARC meeting two weeks ago, the Town of Fort Erie proposed its idea to close both Fort Erie Secondary School and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School and built a new facility adjacent to town hall, the Fort Erie

Leisureplex and YMCA, and have Port High reviewed in a

separate undertaking. The proposed location is private land. Fort Erie acting chief administrative officer Ron Tripp said dialogue has begun and there is support from the property's owner. Schaubel said the public seemed to approve of this

If Port Colborne High School is left alone for the time being, the review committee has indicated the school will be grouped with Welland during an accommodation review expected to take place in two years, said Mayor Vance Badawey at his city's council meeting.

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■ BOOKS: Port Colborne author behind Our Everyday Lives Include Coffee series

A new chapter in life

VICTORIA GRAY InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -Tyler Holberg hated working dead-end jobs, not knowing where his life was going So he decided to go the ILS. for broke and follow his

dreams. The 22-year-old from Port Colborne has always had a penchant for art and artistic expression, so he quit his job at a retail store and started writing, drawing and inking a series of graphic novels. Our Everyday Lives Include

Coffee. "I'm really passionate (about art) and I'm a really hard worker, so I thought if I could focus all that energy I could make some-

thing really great," he says. The prelude to the series. Our Everyday Lives Include Coffee: Wild Beasts of the Earth, was finished and selling on Hoiberg's website in early November. More than 1,000 copies have sold. He has groups of followers in South Africa, the United Kingdom and

"I want the novel to read like a cup of coffee," he says. "It has very sweet characters in a bitter world."

The graphic novel is set in 2048 in a small town called Speck, after an economic collapse caused mass suicides in 2033.

The second installment of the six-part series. A Devil in the Boardroom/An Angel in the Coffee Shop, comes out in the spring. The novel follows everyman Ionathan White as he deals with life in the aftermath of an economic downturn

"John is myself - the

percolated, distilled version of myself," Hoiberg says, "He doesn't say much. A lot of people tell him what to do and he doesn't really have any control over things, but he

is very opinionated." The graphic novel mirrors today's society, he says, and foreshadows what Hojberg believes could happen if society doesn't make changes.

As White searches for truth in life and the purpose of his existence, he faces the challenges of living in a down-trodden society. He also experiences love, loss and must face the end of the world. For more information

or to purchase a copy of Hojberg's novel visit http://oelic.com/ or @ OELIC_Official on Twitter. victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca



Port Colborne native Tyler Hojberg brings readers into society's not so distant future with his graphic novel series. Our Everyday Lives Include Coffee.

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